

Recommendations and Problems

Monthly Reports for October 1958

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION BRANCH

A re-evaluation of the Cartographic Lab program and direction of effort is currently in progress. A meeting with Chief, D/GC, is requested to obtain endorsement of any new ideas or approach.

The progress being made toward the establishment of standard drafting specifications for certain series maps produced by the Division is gratifying. Cooperation with the Compilation has been excellent.

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

REFERENCE BRANCH

Four trips were made to Vital Storage. Very little has been sent this month, but a large quantity of material is waiting to be forwarded. All materials there have been filed, but as the materials awaiting shipment are forwarded, a backlog will of necessity occur. Arrangements have been made for the Processing Branch to assume all filing, with the Reference Branch and the Procurement Branch selecting materials to be forwarded. Reference will control all shipments and see that they are forwarded.

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

The Editing and Review Staff reports that the problem of how to handle unclassified reports of D/GG is acute. Inasmuch as two such reports are fast reaching the publication stage: Agroclimatic Aspects of Corn Production in the Soviet Union, CIA/RR-GR-197, and China: Provisional Aspects of Communist China, which will probable be issued as a G-report. [REDACTED] is following up on the latter, and it is hoped that any decision arrived at will serve as official precedent for other unclassified reports.

We believe that D/GG should be supplied with a final copy (in addition to the preliminary rough draft which is now shown us) of memoranda on map procurement prepared by D/GL Domestic Procurement Branch and that the final act of "coordination" by D/GL should be a phone call to see if we agree with this final copy. We continue to run across mistakes in the final drafts sent us, even though the D/GL representatives had discussed the requirement with us previously. As it now stands, we have no assured chance to call these to D/GL's attention before the requirement goes out.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRANCH

Photographs for a forthcoming study were obtained from Graphics Register. Its collection of photos in Lebanon was fairly good in quantity but poor in quality; most of the photos, for example, were not up to the caliber of those generally found in professional or general publications. Also, only a handful of the photos were of recent vintage.

It has become increasingly clear that the most valuable source of information is the research material available in the Branch. These items are selected; they are in hand; and in many cases they would not be recoverable if held in the form of a reference only. Space for both classified and open-shelf material is at a premium. Files and shelves are combed frequently for obsolete material but the emergence of Africa is bringing in material at an increasing rate on areas that formerly received little or no attention. The research being conducted on Africa, both in the continent and outside, is many times greater than the early post war years. The problem is here and now, and it will be more acute in the future.

FAR EAST - PACIFIC BRANCH

The OCI Weekly's recent article comparing economic progress of India and Communist China contained a number of cases of questionable geographic reasoning. GG/F has called this to the attention of Chief, D/GG, with the recommendation that D/GG-OCI coordination should be a two-way street.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

COORDINATION STAFF

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Problems encountered in the coordination of text and graphics for NIS 77 and NIS 1 resulted in a meeting with [REDACTED] of OBI, Mr. Berney of Air Force (the NIS Committee Air Force alternate), Mr. Cavanagh of ACIC, and the Chief of the Coordination Staff. Mr. Berney made a trip to St. Louis during the last week of October in an effort to resolve internal Air Force problems contribution to deficiencies in the ACIC Chapter IX contributions. Plans are being made for the Chief and Deputy Chief of the Coordination Staff and [REDACTED] of OBI to make a follow-up visit to ACIC in St. Louis in mid-November to outline specific problems encountered in coordination and editing of textual and graphic contributions.

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